

other armed weapons.

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War Manpower Commission has Studied these Problems.—All these matters, and a host of others of even more confusing nature, have been carefully studied by the War Manpower Commission, through the Procurement and Assignment Service for Physicians, on which Frank H. Lahey, M. D., of Boston, and present past-president of the A.M.A. is chairman, and which is represented in the Ninth Corps Area by Karl L. Schaupp, M. D., of San Francisco, now president-elect of the C.M.A.; and in California by Harold A. Fletcher, M. D., of San Francisco, as chairman for the northern section of the State and Edward M. Palette, M. D., of Los Angeles, as chairman for southern division, this last area covering the fourteen counties south of the San Bernardino base line. These representatives of the medical profession have given unstintingly of themselves in service to our Country, and to the profession of which they are honored members. In times such as the present, they cannot, nor are they expected to find satisfactory or easy solutions for all problems coming under their jurisdiction. They can only hope that their decisions will measure up to good standards of human achievement.

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On Administrative and Professional Medicine.—All who have had much actual experience in large administrative endeavors know how easy it is for complications to arise when rules that must be carried through by agents far from the source of pronouncement, are broken. Especially, under war conditions, regulations must be carried out in impersonal manner and universally applied, even though hardships and awkward or unfortunate situations occasionally arise through adherence to such a course. That explains why some of the conditions are not rectified.

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Concerning Some Suggestions.—Thus, for instance, it has been pointed out that in many military camps located in California, and in other commonwealths, there are stations where the number of physicians so placed are in excessive number, with a minimum of professional work to occupy their time. It has been proposed that if physicians who are assigned to stations where there is seemingly an excess of medical men, and all of whom have received their initial military training, it might be of real aid in lessening the strain in many communities, if a limited number of such physicians could receive furloughs of several months duration—and renewable according to conditions—that would permit them to return to private practice where needs exist, but to be available for military duties on 12 or 24 hours' notice—just as are railroad engineers, policemen, and citizens in certain walks of life.

In line with the above also, it has been suggested that the Surgeon General might authorize the appointment of a larger number of civilians as administrative officers in the Medical Corps, thus relieving medical men from what is in one sense, only partly medical work, and that of a not over-enticing nature.

These comments have been made because the items considered, have been and are topics of conversation among physicians. The confusion now existing in the minds of many Doctors of Medicine, concerning further needs for military personnel in the medical branches of the armed forces may explain in part why some physicians in civilian practice, who are of proper age and physically fit, are somewhat slow in volunteering their services.

However, as should be the case, the issues will be decided by those in authority, and according to their best judgment. It is gratifying to all members of the medical profession to know that the constituted representatives of the Government have shown every willingness to work in close coöperation and harmony with organized medicine. And to physicians, both in and out of the Armed Services, it should be heartening that, by and large, the medical profession has made most generous effort to meet the obligations its members owe to our Country.

ON VARIOUS TOPICS

Medical Literature for Colleagues in Military Service
C.M.A. is Planning to Hold an Annual Session in May, 1943

Leases of Medical Officers: New Federal Law Gives Relief to Physicians in Military Service

Tributes to the Medical Profession by Newspaper Editors

Medical Journals on the Pacific Coast: Calling Attention to an Error

"Essentials of Emergency Treatment": An Excellent Brochure by Connecticut State Medical Journal

Medical Literature for Colleagues in Military Service.—The needs of military colleagues for medical literature were discussed in the first editorial in the September issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 169; and again in the October number, where further comment was made on pages 230 and 250. On the same topic, the Letters department of the current issue presents two letters: one from Honolulu, Hawaii, and the other from Luke Field, Arizona.* The writers of the two communications emphasize the reasons why medical literature should be supplied to colleagues who are stationed in California camps of the Armed Forces.

By way of progress report, in regard to the

* See page 337.

plan of collecting medical journals as outlined in the discussions referred to, it is necessary to state that the three medical libraries of the State (University of California, Stanford and Los Angeles) report that up to present date, only meagre acquisitions have been received—so small in amount, indeed, as to be almost nil!

That a response should be so faint, is probably due to the busy lives now being led by physicians who remain in civilian practice. It surely cannot be affirmed that doctors who yet remain at home are indifferent to the needs and contentment of fellow physicians, who, in taking up the rigors of military training and duties, have voluntarily torn themselves away from the conveniences of practice in communities where all is yet at peace.

The obligations which those of us who remain behind owe to our fellows who have detached themselves from pleasant surroundings, in desire to serve our Country, are of such fundamental nature that continued reference may be made in the *OFFICIAL JOURNAL*, on the importance of meeting part of our debt to them, by furnishing to hospital stations in California, medical books and journals that may be of reference or other use.

To repeat: what is requested of physicians in civilian practice will require only small effort: namely, (1) to instruct office secretaries to collect from the shelves, and pack all medical journals or books not needed for home or office use; and (2) to deposit at or send such publications to one of the three medical libraries;* (or, if more convenient, to ship them collect, via Railway Express Agency to: C.M.A. Postgraduate Committee, Room 2004, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco).

The State Committee will carry on from there. Your coöperation will be deeply appreciated.

C.M.A. is Planning to Hold an Annual Session in May, 1943.—Recurrently the question is put—"Is the California Medical Association planning to hold an annual session next year?", and the answer has been—"Yes, the Council has so decided, and an annual session will be held—unless military complications intervene—probably in May, 1943, at Del Monte." This decision is based on action taken at the close of the present year's annual session, and reaffirmed at the last Council meeting (see *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, October, 1942, Item 21 of Council minutes, on page 248).

This brief notice is given to again call the attention of members to the plans under way, and to express the hope that they will consult with the proper section and other program officers, as noted in the outline which appeared in the October issue of *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, on page 228.

Necessarily, the meeting will not be so largely

attended as in former years—owing to transportation difficulties and the large number of colleagues in military service—but the medical economic problems to be considered, and the new medical and surgical work to be publicized, will be as important or more so, in all probability, than many subjects that have received earnest discussions in recent peace-time years. Members and Section Officers are requested to feel free to make suggestions for the program. Military and Industrial Medicine will naturally receive special attention.

Leases of Medical Offices: New Federal Law Gives Relief to Physicians in Military Service.—Recently several letters have been received from members who were on the eve of induction into military service, regarding their legal responsibilities in the matter of office leases. Because of the importance of the subject, attention is called to two items appearing in this issue, in which the topics are discussed: the one, an excerpt from the *Jour. A.M.A.*, in its issue of October 17, 1942, on page 539; the other, a copy of an opinion by Legal Counsel Peart, which has place in the Letters department, on page 338.

Officers of County Societies may wish to call the items to the attention of members.

Of collateral interest to the above may be mentioned other articles, such as those on malpractice defense and financial obligations of colleagues in military service (see *MAY CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, on pages 316 and 330; and October, on page 275). Physicians who are contemplating entrance into military service and who have overlooked these discussions will find it advisable to scan them.

Tributes to the Medical Profession by Newspaper Editors of California.—Elsewhere, editorial comment appears concerning the vote on the Basic Science law, and reference is made to the low level to which some of the opposition's advertising announcements descended. Fortunately, partisanship that indulges in such activities reflects only upon its makers and sponsors.

Refreshing, in contrast, are the editorial paragraphs and other notices which, during recent months, have spontaneously appeared in newspapers throughout California, concerning the efficient service being rendered by Doctors of Medicine who are attached to the Armed Forces, and also to those who remain behind to carry on their duties in industrial and civilian practice. To offset the nauseating stuff which appeared in the recent quarter page newspaper political notices concerning Chancellor Wilbur of Stanford University—who was one of the three signers of the argument in favor of a Basic Science law—may we commend to those readers who may not have done so, perusal of the newspaper excerpts in which tribute is paid to the medical profession, and

* For library addresses, see item on page 337.